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**Amendments to the Claims**

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) The system as set forth in claim 27 [4], wherein the central control unit includes at least one processor, which converts different display information and/or image formats into a predetermined, defined image format.

3. (currently amended) The system as set forth in claim 27 [4], wherein the at least two control apparatuses coupled to the at least two medical apparatus are provided in a rack.

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The system as set forth in claim 27 [4], wherein the ~~central~~ input device includes at least one of a touch screen, a keyboard, a cursor control unit, a mouse, a joystick, a trackball, a foot switch, a touch pad and a speech input device.

7. (canceled)

8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) The system as set forth in claim 27 [4], further comprising a storage unit for storing data captured by the medical instruments and/or data inputted via the ~~data~~ input device.

10. (previously presented) The system as set forth in claim 6, wherein at least one device forming the system is mounted to a ceiling of an associated operating room.

11-19. (cancelled)

20. (currently amended) A system comprising:

a central control unit configured to couple to input and output connections of at least two medically applicable instruments via at least two control apparatuses having different manufacturer-specific ~~input and/or output specifications~~ command protocols and associated command protocol software; and

a common output display device coupled to the central control unit via a bus, wherein the bus provides electrical separation between the common output display device and the central control unit;

at least one input device coupled to the central control unit and configured to receive operator input; and

~~wherein the central control unit is configured to convert different manufacturer-specific display information and/or image formats from the at least two control apparatuses into a predetermined, defined image format such that output data from the control apparatuses is displayed on the common output display device~~

wherein the central control unit is configured to receive output signals from the at least two control apparatuses and adapt the received output signals for display on the common output display device, and the central control unit is configured to receive input signals from the at least one input device and relay the received input signals to the at least two control apparatuses; and

wherein the central control unit is configured to receive output signals and relay received input signals without conversion of the received input signals to command protocols of the least two medically applicable apparatuses.

21. (canceled)

22. (currently amended) The system as set forth in claim 20, wherein the common output display device is a single central input and output display device comprised of a single touch screen display.

23. (canceled)

24. (currently amended) In a system including at least two medically applicable apparatuses, the medically applicable apparatuses each being coupled to a different control apparatus, the control apparatuses having different manufacturer-specific input and output specifications, a central interface unit coupled to input and output connections of said at least two control apparatuses, wherein the central interface unit includes at least one processor that is configured to convert different manufacturer-specific display information and/or image formats from the control apparatuses into a predetermined, defined image format for display on a common output display device, wherein the central interface unit is configured to provide selective display of output data from the medically applicable apparatuses alone or in combination on the common output display device.

25. (previously presented) The central interface unit as set forth in claim 24 in combination with a single output display device, wherein the central interface unit provides for selective display of data from different medically applicable apparatuses alone or in combination on the single output display device.

26. (currently amended) The system as set forth in claim 27 [4], wherein the ~~central~~ input device, the ~~central~~ common output device, and the at least two medically applicable instruments are positioned in an operating theater, and the central control unit and the at least two control apparatuses are positioned outside the operating theater.

27. (new) A system comprising:  
a central control unit configured to couple to input and output connections of at least two medically applicable instruments via at least two control apparatuses having different manufacturer-specific command protocols and associated command protocol software;

a common output display device coupled to the central control unit via a bus, wherein the bus provides electrical separation between the common output display device and the central control unit; and

at least one input device coupled to the central control unit and configured to receive operator input;

wherein the central control unit is configured to receive input signals from the at least one input device and forward the received input signals to the at least two control apparatuses without controlling the medically applicable apparatuses.

28. (new) The system of claim 27, wherein the central control unit is configured to exchange input and output signals with the control apparatuses without conversion of the command protocol software associated with the control apparatuses.